

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operational since 1995, the Jail Profile Survey gathers data from Type II, III and IV facilities. The year 2000 marks the sixth year of data collection; with these years of data we can identify and monitor developing trends affecting local jail jurisdictions in California.

The survey collects monthly and quarterly data relative to a number of local jail characteristics, including Average Daily Populations (ADP), classification, gender, mental health and several other items. The data are collected from all of California's 58 counties, 64 local jail jurisdictions and 140 local jail facilities.

Following is a brief summary of some of the more significant findings and trends identified by the Annual Report 2000.

Jail Population:

- Average Daily Population (ADP): The ADP for 2000 was 74,937. This represents an increase of over 3,800 inmates since 1995. Although the ADP decreased slightly from 1999 to 2000, by about 1,300 inmates, the ADP continues to hover around 75,000 due to jail-bed capacity limits. We anticipate that without the addition of jail bed space, the ADP will remain between 75,000 and 80,000 inmates for the foreseeable future.
- Highest One-Day Population Count: The highest one-day inmate count for 2000 was 79,418 inmates, about 5,000 inmates higher than the ADP. The ADP is a good figure for monitoring population trends, but it underestimates the need for bed space. The highest one-day count for 2000 exceeded the ADP by 6%.
- Board Rated Capacity, ADP and Peak Populations: 1) The Board Rated Capacity (the number of beds in California jails that meet the requirements of Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations) is about 71,093; 2) the 2000 ADP was 74,937; and 3) the highest one-day count in 2000 was 79,814. It is clear that crowding continues to pose a problem to California's jail system.

Factors Affecting Inmate Populations:

- Unserved Warrants: In 2000, there were over 2 million unserved misdemeanor warrants and about 250,000 unserved felony warrants. Should all of these warrants be served within a short period of time, and only a small portion of them resulted in jail time, the jail population could conceivably double. As the Board Rated Capacity, ADP and highest one-day counts illustrate, there would be no available space for these potential inmates. What is now a serious crowding situation in local jail facilities could become disastrous.

- Bookings: The average number of bookings per month in 2000 was 98,282. This figure has increased only slightly since 1995. The number of persons entering California jails seems to be remaining stable. Again, this could be due to capacity restraints.
- Average Length of Stay: The average length of stay in 2000 was 23 days. The average length of stay in days increased steadily since the last decade (the average length of stay in 1989 was 17.6 days), but has remained relatively static for the last six years.
- Pre-trial and Early Releases: Close to 4,500 pre-trial inmates and over 10,000 sentenced inmates are released early each month due to lack of jail space. The number of early releases (an average of over 15,000 each month in 2000) also demonstrates the implications of the lack of local jail space in California.

Jail Population Characteristics:

- Inmate Gender: Since 1995, the percentage of males in the local jail system has dropped slightly, from 88.4% in 1995 to 87% in 2000. The male population has increased almost 2.9% since 1995; while in contrast, the female population has increased about 16% since 1995.
- Inmate Population by Charging Offense: The number of inmates charged with a felony has increased about 2.5% since 1995. From 1999 to 2000, the number of inmates charged with a felony decreased slightly, from 72% in 1999 to 70% in 2000. The number of inmates charged with misdemeanors has remained fairly stable since 1995. However, the number of inmates charged with a misdemeanor increased slightly from 1999 to 2000, from 58% in 1999 to 60% in 2000. The stability of felony charged inmates might be a result of a lack of higher-security jail space.
- Inmate Population by Classification: In 1995, the percentage of inmates requiring maximum-security housing had reached over 53%. Since then, this percentage has steadily decreased. In 2000, about 46% of the inmates required maximum security housing, which represents an insignificant increase from 1999.
- Non-Sentenced and Sentenced Inmates: In 2000, the percentage of non-sentenced inmates was 60%. Throughout the course of the Jail Profile Survey, this percentage has remained virtually unchanged.
- Second and Third Strike Inmates: The number of inmates with Two and Three Strikes has declined fairly steadily since 1995. In 1995, the average number of inmates with Two Strikes was 3,794, while in 2000, this number was 3,065.

The average number of Three Strike Inmates decreased from 2,636 in 1995 to 1,849 in 2000, a 30% decrease. From 1999 to 2000 alone, the average number of Three Strike inmates decreased by almost 11%. Together, Two and Three Strike inmates have decreased almost 24% since 1995.

- Medical and Mental Health Beds: In 2000, the percentage of inmates requiring medical beds was about 1%. This figure has not changed significantly since 1995. Inmates requiring mental health beds, however, have increased over 150% since 1995, from 1,181 in 1995 to 2,977 in 2000. In 2000, about 4% of the population required mental health beds. As more mental health beds come online, it is anticipated that this figure will increase commensurately.
- Inmates Housed Under a Federal Contract: Since 1995, the number of inmates housed under a federal contract has risen by almost 150%. In 2000, federal inmates constituted 5% of the population.
- Inmates Awaiting Transport to CDC: At any given time during 2000, about 1,100 inmates were awaiting transport to the California Department of Corrections.
- Criminal Illegal Aliens: In 2000, it was estimated that 12% of the inmate population were undocumented criminal aliens.
- Juveniles in Custody: The Jail Profile Survey tracks the number of juveniles incarcerated in jails statewide. For 2000, this number averages around 100 per day. This number needs to be carefully monitored to assess the effects of Proposition 21, which may significantly impact the number of juveniles held in adult jails.
- Inmate Assaults on Staff: The number of inmate assaults on staff had been increasing steadily since 1995 about 63% to 1999. However, in 1999, there were an average of 242 assaults on staff per quarter, and in 2000 there were an average of 227, a 6% decrease. The direction in which the ADP oscillates may have had a direct effect on the number of inmate of staff assaults, as evidenced by the correlation of ADP and staff assaults. The ADP had decreased about 2% from 1999 to 2000; during 2000 assaults dropped much more than the ADP.

Perspective:

- There are a number of indications that the current capacity of the jail system, in terms of the number of beds, has placed an artificial ceiling on the ADP. Should the number of beds increase, the local jail system would certainly be housing more inmates than it currently does.